

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 and 14-23 are presently pending in this application. Original Claims 1-12 have been allowed by the Examiner. Claims 14-23 have been amended to overcome certain informalities and to otherwise place the subject application in condition for allowance based upon the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner. In this regard, Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice in an effort to expedite prosecution. The specification has also been updated and amended to correct certain informalities. No new matter has been added to the subject application by these amendments nor have any new issues been raised.

DETAILED ACTION

The Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of certain informalities relating to the status of a copending application, now issued, and the patent number of a noted prior art reference. The specification has been updated and corrected appropriately.

Claim Rejections

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 19-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because of the alleged vagueness of the preabular recitations. Appropriate corrections have been made to Claims 19-23, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 13, 14 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,676,694 to Boser et al. Without acquiescing to this rejection, and in the interest of expediting prosecution of the subject application, Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice, thus obviating this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

As noted above, Claims 1-12 have been allowed.

Claim 15 was objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim (i.e., Claim 13). The Examiner indicated that Claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of Claim 13. In the interest of expediting prosecution and without acquiescing in any way to the rejection of Claim 13, Clam 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations originally present in Claim 13. Accordingly, Claim 15 and each of the claims now depending therefrom (i.e., Claims 14 and 16-18) are in condition for allowance.

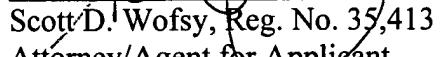
The Examiner has indicated that Claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, discussed above. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 19 has been properly amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and is now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 20-23, which depend from amended Claim 19, have also been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Thus, Claims 20-23 are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 1-12 and 14-23, are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic or personal interview would resolve any remaining matters, the undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 8, 2006